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Message Text

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56
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /060 W
---------- 044948
R 071320Z JUL 76
FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1497
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
COMUSFORAZ
CINCEUR
CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0318

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: JUNTA PROTESTS REPORTED INITIATION BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. TWO MEMBERS OF THE AZOREAN REGIONAL JUNTA TOLD ME THAT THE JUNTA SENT A TELEGRAM TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REMINDING THE MINISTRY THAT AZOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO TAKE PART IN ALL BASE NEGOTIATIONS AFFECTING THE REGION. THE JUNTA HAD HEARD INDIRECTLY FROM U.S. SOURCES IN LISBON THAT THE US-PORTUGUESE TALKS ON LAJES HAD STARTED. MY SOURCES SHOWED SOME SKEPTICISM WHEN I SAID I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY NEGOTIATIONS.

2. COMMENT: THE ONE SUBJECT IN THE AZORES IN WHICH THERE IS NEAR UNANIMITY IS THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS. UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION THE AZORES HAS THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND SHARE IN THE BENEFITS FROM THEM AND AZOREANS PLAN TO DO JUST THAT. MANY OF THE POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE FOLLOWED THE RECENT U.S. NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN AND TURKEY AND ARE AWARE OF THE MONEY INVOLVED. THEY SEE THE U.S. PRESENCE AT LAJES AS AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE WHICH THEY INTEND TO TAP TO THE FULLEST.
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Message Attributes

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